

**AGENDA ITEM:** Regional Library Network Membership Issues

**ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS MEETING:** Should potential member applications for regional library networks that are completed and received by the Board by December 31, 2000 be considered charter members of their respective library networks, and, upon approval by the Library of California Board in February 2001, be eligible for regional benefits and services during the current fiscal year?

**RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD:** I move that the Library of California Board authorize that membership applications that are completed and received by the Board by December 31, 2000 are eligible to receive member benefits and services during the current fiscal year upon approval of their applications at the February 2001 Library of California Board meeting, and that membership applications received after this date be considered for membership benefits during the following fiscal year.

**BACKGROUND:**

Consider a deadline of December 31, 2000, for completed membership applications to be received by the Board and for these members to receive benefits during the current fiscal year.

During consideration of budget issues related to regional library networks, there was discussion by regional contacts, staff, and board members about the limitations on charter membership. In addition, at the August 2000 meeting, an opinion issued by Paul Smith indicated that any member who is accepted prior to the network beginning operations could be considered a charter member. With the Board establishing January 1, 2001 as the beginning date for funded network operations, December 31, 2000 would be the last date on which a completed member application could be received and have the member be considered a charter member.

As the Board does not meet again until February 2001, it is likely that additional applications will be received between the current November Board meeting and the February meeting. Staff is seeking direction on the limit the Board wants to set receipt of member applications to be funded from the current fiscal year allocations. If it is the Board's desire to have all charter members receive services from the onset of network operations, then there needs to be a cutoff date after which new applications will be considered for funding during the following fiscal year.

Options:

1. Consider all applications received to date as charter members with all future applications to be considered for fiscal year 2001/02 membership.
2. Consider all membership applications received prior to the February 2001 meeting as eligible to be charter members, with member services beginning immediately upon Board approval.
3. Establish a deadline date of December 31, 2000 as the cutoff date by which completed membership applications are received by the Board and are eligible for service immediately upon approval by the Board. All other applications received prior to the February 2001 Board meeting would be presented to the Board for membership approval effective no sooner than July 2001.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends option 3 as it is consistent with counsel's opinion on charter membership, and it allows the maximum amount of time prior to the start of regional operations for receipt of completed charter membership applications. It also allows lead time so that regional contacts can notify their potential members of the Board's decision prior to the cutoff date.

Relevant Committee: Support Services

Staff Liaison: Diana Paque